

Middletown Public Library

October 26, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

Library Conference Room

Board Members:

Present: John Grisham, Peter Van Steeden, Holly Levine, Lynda Bronaugh, Mary Ulrich-Budlong, Ed Wray

Absent: Beverley Murphy

Quorum: Yes

Others Present: Robert Balliot (library director), Virgel Blaschke (friends rep), Ed Silveira (town council liaison), Dan Kinder (MPL Labor lawyer)

Proceedings:

- . Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Chair, John Grisham**
- . September 19, 2006 minutes were amended and unanimously approved**

Correspondence:

- . Friends of the library letter**
- Discussion postponed to executive session**
-

Director's progress and financial reports on the library:

- . Director's report**
- Written report submitted. Robert Balliot orally reviewed information. Robert presented his recommendations and suggestions to the**

board. No formal action was taken on this. (There was no motion to receive or accept.) Report accepted as amended.

-Director will be on FMLA from October 30 returning Nov 14. Barbara Camedeco will be acting director while he is gone.

-Motion to have the Director apply for the appropriate grants to pay for the children's room project. Unanimously approved.

-Motion to remove copies of Attorney Kinder's bills from the director's report and have them retained by the board. Unanimously approved.

. Financial report

-Written flash budget submitted and accepted

Committee reports:

. Children's room improvement committee

- Status of Phase I reviewed in director's report.

. Budget Committee

- John Grisham reported the committee would begin meeting next month.

. Friends of MPL

- Virgel Blaschke reported the Book Sale was very successful. They will be holding a Blood Drive in November. JAM has prepared the picnic table area and the only thing needed is for them to be assembled. Evaluation Committee

- No report

. Contract Negotiation Committee

- Report received in executive session.

. Program Committee

- No report

Unfinished Business:

. Status of Children's Room Improvements

-Status of Phase I reviewed in director's report. Holly Levine mentioned concern over the amount of time it was taking to complete Phase I. She was concerned that the people who worked on the committee and those who have donated to the renovations would become frustrate with the lack of progress.

. Requests for Waiver of Minimum Standards

-John Grisham stated that some of the director's reasons would need to be discussed in executive session but he wanted to address the others at this time. Robert stated that waiver standards should be discussed in open session and if he stated that some of his reasons needed to be in executive session at the last meeting he was mistaken.

#27 – 3 changes to by-laws to bring us in compliance.

Motion to amend by-laws as follows. Unanimously approved.

Article III, Section 1 to be amended to read: "The regular meetings of the board shall be held monthly, on the third Tuesday of each month or at such other time as set by the board."

Motion to amend by-laws as follows. Unanimously approved.

Article III, Section 4 to be amended to read: "A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting shall consist of four (4) members of the board present in person, representing a majority of

the seven board members."

Motion to amend by-laws as follows. Unanimously approved.

A new Section 3 to be added to Article VI, stating that, "Vacancies on the board occurring by resignation, removal, death or otherwise shall be filled by the Town Council pursuant to the provisions of RIGL 29-4-5."

#6 – Director Robert Balliot feels that the board is restricting access to public information he requested and that the board for voicing his opinions is punishing him. Based on the opinion of our counsel on the issue the communications were considered private not public communications. The board also feels that all personnel issues regarding the director are true personnel issues and do not have to do with intellectual freedom. Robert has stated that he will provide sample documents for the board to review for the next board meeting.

The board has agreed to read and discuss the material. Robert stated that if we do this he would feel comfortable stating, that in his opinion the board is working towards alleviating noncompliance with standard #6.

#32G – At the September board meeting a CD was handed out to all trustees with the Intellectual Freedom Handbook, RI Public Library trustees handbook, RI open Meeting Act. The Lori website was given to the board as a source to obtain additional information.

#33 -Discussed the Open Meetings Law and its requirements was held at the September 2006 board meeting and are being Implemented to the best of our ability.

**- Motion to direct all library board trustees to study the relevant library laws (Open Meeting, Public Records and Conflict of Interest).
Approved - John Grisham, Peter Van Steeden, Holly Levine, Lynda Bronaugh, Mary Ulrich-Budlong Abstained-Ed Wray. Motion approved.**

-Motion to adopt a policy that mirror's the Town of Middletown's FMLA for the Middletown Public Library's employees. Unanimously approved.

New Business:

. Proposed Amendments to By-Laws re:

- See above unfinished business #27 request for waiver of Minimum Standards

Open Call By Chair Announcing Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-2, 42-46-4, 42-46-5(a)(1) (personnel matters and policies)

- Robert Balliot respectfully requested that the executive meeting pertaining to his personnel matters be postponed until the November board meeting, in order for him to seek and consult with legal counsel.

-Motion to postpone Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-2, 42-46-4, 42-46-5 (personnel matters) re:Robert Balliot to the next board meeting. Unanimously approved.

-Motion to adopt the documents prepared by Performance Standard's subcommittee as is.

Motion to table the presentation and the discussion of the documents until the next board meeting. Unanimously approved.

Open Call By Chair Announcing Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-2, 42-46-4, 42-46-5(a) (collective bargaining)

-Motion to go in to executive session. Unanimously approved.

Executive session, Board to discuss collective bargaining, door closed, session called to order at 8:40 pm, Executive session adjourned at 9:40 pm, doors opened, returned to open meeting.

-Motion to approve the executive meeting minutes from September 19, 2006 as amended and to seal them. Unanimously approved.

- Motion to move \$4000 from overtime line item to pay for outstanding attorney's fees. Unanimously approved.

- Motion to authorize the chairman to approach the town administrator regarding possible future attorney fees and to report back the board next month. Unanimously approved.

- Motion to give the nonunion part-time employees a 3.5% raise retroactive to July 1, 2006. Unanimously approved.

- Motion to seal executive session minutes for today's meeting. Unanimously approved.

-Motion to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Holly Levine